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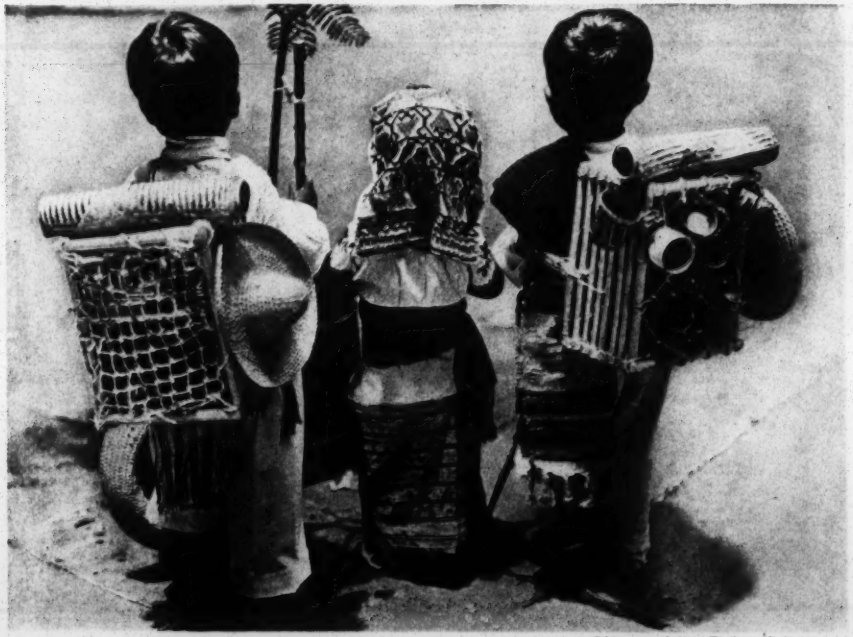

Photograph by Ewing Galloway

MEXICAN INFANT INDUSTRIES SET OUT ON THEIR OWN

The vast oil business recently taken over by the Mexican government has been managed by foreign companies. Local industries have been conducted on a smaller scale, symbolized by the children with miniatures of the equipment which a Mexican peon needs to go into business. The lads carry, slung on bands around their chests, small crates containing poultry (left) and native pottery (right), with a sleeping mat rolled up on each. The spare sombrero (left) is also part of the tiny merchant's stock. The little girl's costume is bright with hand-woven stripes and embroidered designs on sleeves and headgear. Their sandals, and the boys' *serapes* and fringed sashes, are copies of adult apparel (Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Oil and Silver, Mexico's "Double Trouble" Twins

EXCEPT Canada, no foreign country is geographically so close to the United States as is its southern neighbor, Mexico. In a business sense, Mexico also is important. Latest figures show that Mexico is Uncle Sam's best customer among the Latin American republics and ranks sixth or seventh among all nations in the world that buy American products.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Mexico captured the headlines of U. S. newspapers recently by taking over all foreign owned (many of them American) oil companies. Secretary Hull, of the United States State Department, issued a statement recognizing Mexico's constitutional right to do this, but added that owners of the properties would expect payment. The United States also announced that it would buy no more Mexican silver after April 1.

Trouble in either the oil or the silver business means trouble indeed for Mexico, and it is double trouble when both are concerned, as in the present case. Not only is Mexico the world's largest silver producer, and the seventh most important source of petroleum, but mining is the nation's most highly developed and best organized industry. Neighborly differences soon were reflected in the *peso*, or Mexican dollar, which began to slip, disrupting Mexican business.

Chunk of Silver Weighing over a Ton

In recent years minerals and ores have formed half the value of Mexico's exports, while mining machinery has accounted for much of her imports. Other nations have a large stake in this industry, too, because nearly 97 per cent of the 31,000 mining properties in Mexico are foreign-owned, mostly by Americans and Britons.

Nearly every one of the 28 States of Mexico has mines of some kind, and almost all the mines produce silver. Some of these "diggings" have been worked for centuries. Spaniards took them over from the Indians, and for 300 years, from 1521 to 1821, a steady stream of silver floated to Spain. A single chunk found in Sonora (northern Mexico) weighed 2,750 pounds!

After Mexico became a republic the output doubled and trebled. Baron von Humboldt, famous German geographer, called her "the treasure house of the world." In two centuries as the world's chief source of the precious white metal Mexico has produced more than five billion dollars' worth of silver.

Most of the silver mines of Mexico are found in that rugged double backbone of ranges, known as the Eastern and Western Sierra Madres, which runs down through the heart of the country from the United States border to Guatemala.

Some mines are mere holes in the hills, worked by a few Indians with picks and shovels. Others are elaborate enterprises, with steel tipples, electric cars, and overhead conveyor systems to transport ore to a central reduction or refining plant. They are operated by workers from big "company towns," whose cheerless houses rise in tiers from deep canyons.

Streets of several Mexican mining towns are literally paved with silver. Early Spanish processes of separating the metal from the ore were crude and left much silver in the tailings or débris, often used for road surfacing. In some places these tailings are being reworked.

Silver mining has brought wealth and world fame to such Mexican cities as Pachuca, San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato, Chihuahua, Torreón, Durango, and Oaxaca.

Storehouse of Other Minerals

Silver is not the only important source of Mexican mineral wealth, although several of the other minerals are obtained as by-products in refining silver ore. In recent years Mexico has been the second most important producer of antimony; third of lead; fourth of mercury; fifth of zinc; sixth of gold; and seventh of petroleum and graphite. In addition, Mexico has valuable deposits of tin, mercury, molybdenum, copper, platinum, cadmium, tungsten, iron, coal, sulphur, bismuth and other minerals.

Mexico's oil industry, while young, represents an investment of over 500 million dollars, mostly American and British capital. With some of the world's largest and most modern refineries, Mexico has become an important producer of gasoline and products derived from raw petroleum. In normal times about two-thirds of Mexico's oil production is exported.

Mexico came into the world race for oil production late. Its first producing well, yielding a modest 50 barrels a day, was brought in thirty-seven years ago. Between 1901 and December, 1935, however, more than one and three-quarter billion dollars worth of "liquid gold" was drained from the Mexican earth, chiefly in the Gulf coast sections of the States of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz, and the northeast part of the isthmus of Tehuantepec. Roaring gushers and smoking refineries have boomed such once quiet seaports as Tampico, Tuxpam and Puerto México.

Because Mexico has only one important coal field, in the State of Coahuila, many of her

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Photograph from Alberto L. Godoy

A MILLION-DOLLAR BIRTHPLACE OF MANY A DIME, QUARTER, AND SHILLING

Leading spot in Mexico's mining industry, which last year supplied nearly a third of the world's silver, is Pachuca, northeast of Mexico, D. F. The buttressed roads, tanks, vats, laboratories, chutes, and mass of buildings for processing the ore are above-ground indications of how far the industry has progressed from early primitive methods of extraction. Pachuca lies in a silver-lined pocket of mountains a few miles off the new Pan American Highway and not far from the giant pyramids of Teotihuacán (Bulletin No. 1).

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The Penguin Is a Paradox of the Animal Kingdom

BIRTH certificates were issued last month to Moe and Mollie Penguin for their twin chicks, Malcolm and Minnie. The District of Columbia Health Officer gravely recorded the unique egg-cracking, since the double event took place in the penguins' own air-conditioned, glass-enclosed "ice-box" at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C.

The two Jackass Penguin chicks, emerging from their eggs three days apart, were for about three weeks prime attractions at the Zoo. Now they have become permanent penguin chick exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum, for they both died in infancy of unknown causes.

Flightless Human-size Bird That Swims Like a Fish

To strollers through the Zoo's Bird House, the penguin may be merely a dumpy little clown, but to naturalists he is a puzzle. He is a bird; yet he cannot fly. Instead, he walks upright like a toddling child, having known the goose-step perhaps before the goose learned it, and surely before it went on parade in armies. His true element is not the air but the sea; he can swim underwater like a fish, rivaling the porpoise in speed. Moreover, this fishy bird swims entirely with his paddle-shaped wings, towing his webbed feet sole-upward behind like a rudder.

The largest penguin living today, the Emperor variety, could stand toe to toe with most third-grade pupils and look them in the eye, for his height is four feet. Scientists once pieced together a fossil and announced that it had been an extinct species of penguin seven feet tall.

The popular notion of a penguin—comical little mannish bird in black dinner coat and plump expanse of white shirt front, waddling sedately over Antarctic snows—is incomplete almost to the point of error. There are seventeen known varieties of the bird, only two of which live in Antarctica. "Black-and-white" cannot adequately describe the plumage which includes bright orange spots, lemon-yellow stripes, or in some species a topknot of pale yellow plumes or golden-orange feathers with pointed black tips. No wonder the penguin has a peacock's pride in his costume, squinting down his chubby sides for a possible speck to wash off.

Seventeen Varieties, All Southern, from Antarctic to Equator

Africa, South America (illustration, next page), Australia, and New Zealand have their penguin colonies as well as Antarctica. One variety, smallest of them all, weighing only about six pounds when fully fattened, thrives almost on the Equator in the Galapagos Islands. The whole strange penguin family stays entirely within the Southern Hemisphere.

The name, however, was first applied to a northern bird, the Great Auk, which has been extinct since 1844. It was the northern "penguin" that figured in Anatole France's satire describing birds like "the senate of a judicious republic," all of which were baptized by a near-sighted missionary and transformed into men—*Penguin Island*. The Welsh words *pen* (head) and *gwyn* (white), referring to a characteristic of the vanished Auk, are supposed to be the origin of the bird comedian's name.

Whaling expeditions to the South Seas in the past century increased their profit by bringing back penguin oil, boiled down from the ¾-inch layer of fat under the birds' skin as inside overcoats against Antarctic waters' chill. The oil was

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railroads use oil for fuel. New motor highways, particularly the paved Pan American route from Laredo, on the Rio Grande, through Mexico, D. F., to Tehuacán and to Acapulco, have attracted many American motorists, and provided an outlet for Mexican gasoline.

Note: See also "In the Empire of the Aztecs," *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1937; "Mexican Land of Lakes and Lacquers," May, 1937; "Mexican Indian Flying Pole Dance," March, 1937; "Yucatán, Home of the Gifted Maya," and "Today in the Feathered Serpent's City" (Chichen Itzá), color insert, November, 1936; "Travels with a Donkey in Mexico," December, 1934; "Vignettes of Guadalajara," March, 1934; "Unearthing America's Ancient History," July, 1931; "Monte Albán, Richest Archeological Find in America," October, 1932; "Adventures in Color on Mexico's West Coast," July, 1930; "Among the Zapotecs of Mexico," May, 1927; "Chichen Itzá, an Ancient American Mecca," January, 1925; "Ruins of Cuicuilco May Revolutionize Our History of Ancient America," August, 1923; and "Along the Old Spanish Road in Mexico," March, 1923.

Bulletin No. 1, April 25, 1938.

Photograph from Mexican Petroleum Co.

AN ACCIDENTAL FOUNTAIN IS A GIANT SYMBOL OF MEXICO'S OIL WEALTH

The Cerro Azul No. 4 well became the Hercules of oil mythology when it burst into production at the rate of 3 barrels per second, with such force that it wrecked the derrick built above it, shot a 600-foot black column into the air, and showered the countryside with oil. The 1,752-foot well was finally capped with a valve that diverted the gushing oil into a pipeline running to the port of Tampico, a few miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

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Catalonia, Spain's Busiest Workshop, Cornered by Rebel Army

AFTER Insurgent forces had hammered the Government-held strip of Spain into an hour glass, the Government areas consisted of Catalonia in the northeast and a more southerly block, including Madrid and Valencia. The two parts were linked by a highway following the coast between Barcelona and Valencia. In the first week of this month, Rebel forces pressed seaward to the ancient town of Tortosa on this important highway, threatening the road link between Government areas.

This was a move to isolate Catalonia and its outstanding city, Barcelona. This triangle in the northeast corner where the Pyrenees join the Mediterranean, has been the most modern and the busiest industrial part of the country. Two years ago it set up a semi-independent local government, only partially subject to Madrid rule. More recently Barcelona has been capital of Loyalist Spain.

Catalonians Have Intense Local Patriotism

Catalonia has always been a fiercely independent area, and was a semi-independent principality even in ancient times. Patriotism of the people is directed toward Catalonia rather than any larger government. There is even a special language used in that area, a separate tongue which has its roots in ancient Latin. Kin to the speech of French Provence, it is understood along the Mediterranean and is used in the Balearic Isles also.

In Catalan, the name of the area is not *Cataluña*, as in Spanish, but *Catalunya*. Although Spanish is the official speech, Catalan is far from being a dead language, and has an extensive literature all its own.

The four provinces that comprise Catalonia—Gerona, Barcelona, Tarragona, and Lérida—form one of the most important parts of the Spanish peninsula. Barcelona, chief city of Catalonia, is the rival of Madrid for the title of largest city in Spain. It is Spain's largest industrial center and leading seaport.

Three million people reside in Catalonia, nearly as many as live in Chicago. Many are farmers and shepherds, but they work with an intensity almost equal to the hustle and rush of big cities.

Once Paid 80 Per Cent of All Spanish Taxes

Barcelona symbolizes modern Spain, with almost the whole of the Spanish textile industry centered there and in neighboring Catalonian towns. Plentiful water power (illustration, next page) and coal imported cheaply by sea supply the energy for Catalonia's industries. Lead and iron works, paper, leather, cork, cotton, linen, silk, and jute mills have built up bustling factory towns that are a far cry from the old castles and Moorish palaces of the beaten tourist paths of Spain.

Though its surface is much broken by the southern spurs of the Pyrenees, Catalonia has considerable good farming land. Oranges, limes, olives, and figs thrive in the warmer regions. Grains, licorice, grapes, and nuts grow in areas less influenced by the warm Mediterranean climate. Sheep, goats, and swine find good pasturage. Further to bolster the food supply, there is fishing along the coast.

Recently Barcelona has handled one-third of all the imports into Spain. At one time Catalonia claimed to pay 80 per cent of the taxes of Spain, and its income was estimated to have been two-thirds that of the entire nation.

Changing governments is nothing new for Catalonia. Romans, Goths, Moors, the Emperor Charlemagne, independent French counts, the kingdom of Aragon,

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used for tanning leather. Early explorers counted on piecing out their provisions with penguin meat and eggs, to be hunted along the way.

So dignified are the King penguins that their pedestrian parties have been called "troops," because the birds line up solemnly single file, stand at attention, mark time, then march away.

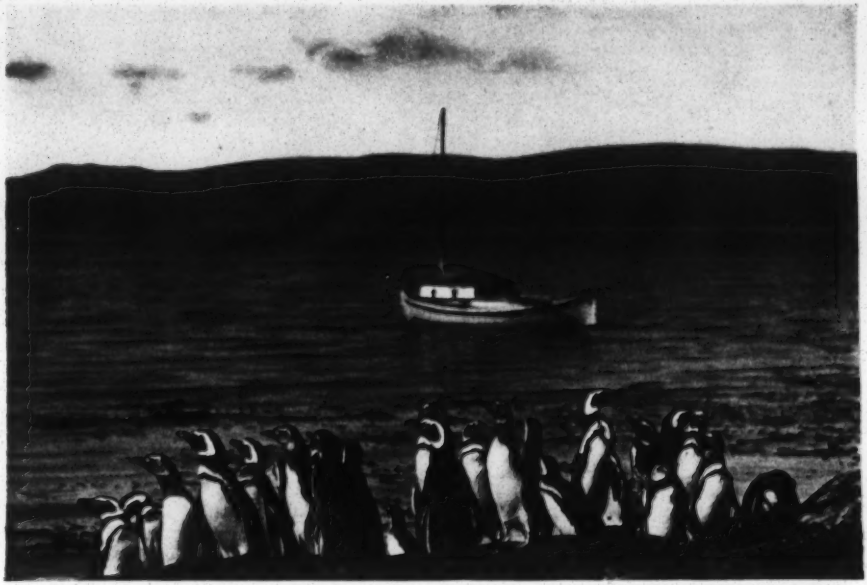
Certain winner in any Antarctic popularity contest would be the Adélie, plump little busybody that scampers trustingly up to inspect Antarctic exploring parties. If a man betrays that trust and kicks the bird away, the Adélie pluckily returns to attack. The Emperor penguins are most exclusive. They withdraw into the frigid darkness of the Antarctic winter to hatch their eggs, holding egg or chick on the parental feet to keep the young from freezing.

Despite their dressy plushlike swallowtail coats, all penguins are sailors at heart, spending most of their time at sea and landing only for a taste of family life. They have been seen asleep in the water, floating on the surface like fat ducks.

Note: For photographs and data about the Emperor, Adélie, King, Jackass, and Johnny Penguins, see "Inside Cape Horn," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1937; "My Flight Across Antarctica" (Lincoln Ellsworth), July, 1936; "Exploring the Ice Age in Antarctica," October, 1935; "Antarctica's Most Interesting Citizen," February, 1932; "The Conquest of Antarctica by Air," August, 1930; "Around the World in the *Islander*," February, 1928; "The Columbus of the Pacific" (Captain James Cook), January, 1927; "Life in the Antarctic," December, 1922; and "South Georgia, an Outpost of the Antarctic," April, 1922.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "The Penguin, F.F.A. (First Family Antarctica)," January 22, 1934.

Bulletin No. 2, April 25, 1938.



Photograph by Amos Burg

SOUTH AMERICA'S PENGUIN "BIRD MEN" ARE EVEN NAMED FOR MEN

Just as men liken penguins to droll roly-poly manikins, penguins may consider men as awkward overgrown penguins, for the birds inspect human intruders with curiosity and greet them in a sort of welcoming committee. Lonely explorers in Antarctic wastes enjoy the penguins' official greeting, with spokesmen of orderly groups, speeches in penguin language, and much bowing; they accept these birds as amusing sub-human company. The penguins here pictured on Offing Island in the Strait of Magellan, Chile, stand with comic dignity as a boat approaches; from the muddy shore they have made well-packed clay paths to nest sites up a slope farther inland. These, the Magellan penguins, and the more northern neighbors farther up the coast of South America, the Humboldts, have been given men's true names. Because they bray, they are also called "jackass" penguins, but the true Jackass variety is found off the coast of South Africa.

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Dumeira: Italian Stopper in the Red Sea Bottleneck

BOTH England and Italy have their eyes focused on the Mediterranean, its eastern entrance, the Suez Canal, and that smaller sea to the south, suddenly important as Italy's "life-line" of contact with East African colonies: the Red Sea. The problem of fortification in the Red Sea spotlights the tiny Eritrean island of Dumeira. It could serve as an Italian Gibraltar at the Red Sea's southern gateway, the Strait of Bab el Mandeb, or the "Gate of Tears."

While smaller than a mile in any dimension, Dumeira is valuable to Italy because of its strategic location. It is about 15 miles westerly of Perim, British fortified island which, as part of the protectorate of Aden, helps Britannia rule the waves at the entrance to the Red Sea (see map, next page).

Former French-Italian Boundary Bisected Island

To a hovering aviator Dumeira resembles a huge dark hydroplane facing east, moored less than a half-mile off the desolate coast of Eritrea. Its broad "wings" taper landward into a narrowing tail.

To a sailor, even in hazy weather, it appears as a camel's back with double hump rising from green waves that hide sinister shoals. From some angles its rocks blend with the bluffs of Cape Dumeira on the mainland.

Until early in 1935, Dumeira served the purpose of holding up one end of the boundary line between the Italian colony of Eritrea and French Somaliland. The boundary landmark has been discarded, however, since France transferred her share of the island to Italy at that time.

Dangers of Strait Win It Name of "Gate of Tears"

The island's best anchorage, near its western point, is conveniently near Eritrea's shore, hidden from Perim. Beams from the latter's British lighthouse are ordinarily visible from Dumeira.

These two islands, the old British bulldog and the new Italian police pup, are lined up at duelling distance off one of the hottest coasts in the world. Africa's barren shore rises jaggedly inland to steep mountains of bare rock. It has been called the country "where the devil did not dare to build his hell." It is difficult to believe that in prehistoric times this blistered area may have been joined to Arabia by a well-watered and wooded isthmus, of which Dumeira and Perim are only stripped and stark remains.

There are two navigation lanes in Bab el Mandeb. Dumeira is equipped by location to be a stumbling block in the larger and more generally used channel. Even without rival forts, irregular tides and sudden gusty winds make the strait a gamble for inexpert sailors.

Unclaimed in Early Days

A Lloyd's "first-aid-to-navigation" station on Perim supplies danger signals to passing ships to avoid having to pay insurance on wrecks. When the Portuguese navigator D'Albuquerque entered the Red Sea in 1513—one of the first Europeans to pass the Gate of Tears—he had to obtain a local pilot by force or fraud, although he had safely sailed around the Cape of Good Hope.

In those days Dumeira was too insignificant to be claimed specifically by any government. When Roman ships sailed past its shores and shoals with cargoes of

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France, and finally Spain all have ruled there at various times. For centuries before France and Spain were well-knit states, Catalonia formed a saddle over the Mediterranean end of the Pyrenees. The French Catalans, however, have remained intensely loyal to France.

Catalonia has an ancient flag of its own, a yellow banner with four diagonal red stripes. Its story is that a dying Catalan hero drew bloody fingers across his yellow scarf and gave it to his countrymen for a standard.

Note: Additional information and pictures of Spain have been published in the following articles of the *National Geographic Magazine*: "We Escape from Madrid," February, 1937; "Turbulent Spain," October, 1936; "Palette from Spain," March, 1936; "Montserrat, Spain's Mountain Shrine," January, 1933; "Madrid Out-of-Doors," August, 1931; "Seville, More Spanish Than Spain," "On the Bypaths of Spain," and "Barcelona, Pride of the Catalans," March, 1929.

Barcelona, Tortosa, and other places in the Spanish headlines are shown on the wall map supplement to the April, 1938, *Magazine*: "Europe and The Mediterranean."

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Barcelona, State and National Capital," November 22, 1937; "Teruel Comes into Spain's Headlines," January 10, 1938; "Asturias, the Wales of Spain," October 18, 1937; "Oviedo, Watchdog of Spain's Northern Mines," March 15, 1937; "Valencia, Now Spain's 'Spare' Capital," February 8, 1937; "Cadiz, Spain's Mystery Port Since Europe's Dawn," February 1, 1937; and "Malaga, with a Climate for Loafing but an Eye for Business," January 25, 1937.

Bulletin No. 3, April 25, 1938.

Photograph from Harriet Chalmers Adams

WHEN DISTANT DYNAMOS FELL TO REBELS, BARCELONA LIGHTS WENT OUT

As in Biblical days when the hills were a source of spiritual power, so today the hills at the foot of the Pyrenees are the source of physical power for the industrial development of Barcelona. Originally, the power for Catalonian mills came from coal imported from England. More recently tremendous dams have harnessed mountain streams in the Province of Lérida. This modern power plant is located in the same Lérida neighborhood where bridge foundations still in use have survived from ancient Rome's legions.

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Finishing Touches Prepare Washington for Spring Visitors

"IT LOOKS just like the postcards!", typical sightseer's comment on the Washington scene, is still true. The Capitol dome is still the same as in the newsreel backdrop for senatorial snapshots. The Washington Monument at night is still a looming landmark in peaked white hood with red airplane beacons for eyes. The cherry blossoms still wreathe the Tidal Basin, although in color noticeably paler than the pink of tinted photographs mailed back home.

But behind the scenes and indoors are many changes which prevent last year's two and three-fourths million visitors from feeling they have seen everything.

"Flatiron" Building Forms Apex of Federal Triangle

The triangular block east of the Archives Building, where motorists have been staring at blank wooden walls while waiting for traffic signals at Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, has at last been unveiled to reveal the Apex Building. This new home for the Federal Trade Commission is named for its position at the apex of the Federal Triangle group, already housing ten important bureaus and commissions. The new seven-floor Apex structure has a "flatiron" floorplan, with rounded column-lined tip pointed east toward the Capitol.

As soon as the Apex Building shed its screen of gray hoarding, up went a larger wooden barrier across the street, and steam shovels began to bite out the foundation for a National Art Gallery to house the Mellon collection. Art students may amuse themselves meanwhile by visiting the recently opened Museum of Modern Art, fifth art museum of Washington. The new gallery, in the Metropolitan Club Building at 17th and H Streets, presents changing exhibitions.

A recent addition to the dignified façades of Constitution Avenue is the Federal Reserve Board Building at 20th Street. A pair of splashing fountains in black granite bowls flank the entrance to the spacious low building of polished Georgia marble. Over the front door broods a marble eagle four yards tall.

Other new buildings on the District landscape are the additions to the National Zoological Park—the Pachyderm House for giraffe, elephant, rhino, hippo, tapir, and buffalo tenants; and the air-conditioned Small Mammals House for monkeys, civet cats, otters, gophers, chipmunks, and kangaroo rats. The Zoo also has several hundred new animals and birds, most of them brought back from the Orient by the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution Malaysia Expedition in 1937.

Strictly businesslike is the appearance of the 11-story remodeled quarters of the Home Owners Loan Corporation, at First Street and Indiana Avenue, with tidy limestone front covering almost 200,000 square feet of office space. Nearby rises the new District Court Building with its eight streamlined courtrooms, situated just south of Judiciary Square.

Three Additions to Statuary Hall

Several new structures in Washington will take their places in the official directory under the obscure title of Annexes. The Government Printing Office has an annex for additional warehouse space. The Agriculture Annex, also known as the Standardization Building of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics ("Cotton Building" for short), is a long six-story rectangle of tapestry brick at 12th and C Streets Southwest. Here cotton, wool, hay, seeds, beans, and other agricultural products are tested and classified for sale. Continuous window strips four stories high and special skylights have been designed to throw shadowless light into laboratories used for classing cotton fiber according to color and size.

The Bureau of Engraving's new 7-story annex across the street is one of the largest structures in the world built of steel and concrete.

The Capital's fourth new Annex of the year is the addition to the Library of Congress, east of the parent building and glaringly white beside its age-grimed elder. This Annex provides storage space for ten million books, with a penthouse for 167 quiet private study rooms.

Nearby, in the Capitol, the year has brought three newcomers to the population of Statuary Hall. Nebraska has installed its first representatives in this American Hall of Fame—William Jennings Bryan and J. Sterling Morton. General William Henry Harrison Beadle, educator, was sent to Statuary Hall for South Dakota. In the somber Crypt of the Capitol basement has been installed a pearly white plaster model of the building, made accurately to scale.

Recent exhibits of commemorative stamps, in the Benjamin Franklin Post Office, have brought the Philatelic Display Room up to date with 44,000 U. S. stamps on display, including

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musk, silk, seed pearls, and Arabian spices, frankincense, and myrrh, the island was ruled by the local king of the Assamites.

Dumeira's transfer to complete Italian rule was so quietly made that its significance was scarcely realized by spectator nations. Now it is compared by some chroniclers to England's transfer to Germany of Hēlgoland, small North Sea island, which later served as an important naval base.

Note: Dumeira may be located on the two-page map (pp. 270-271) accompanying the article, "With the Italians in Eritrea," in the September, 1935, *National Geographic Magazine*. See also "Pearl Fishing in the Red Sea," November, 1937; "The Suez Canal: Short Cut to Empires," November, 1935; and "Sailing Forbidden Coasts," September, 1931.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Suez Canal Is a Short Cut to the Orient," week of October 28, 1935; and "England's Road to the Orient," week of October 14, 1935.

Bulletin No. 4, April 25, 1938.

Drawn by Albert H. Bumstead

THE RED SEA IS A BUSY CORRIDOR TO THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM COLONIES OF EUROPEAN POWERS

British, French and Italian contact with African colonies is most easily maintained via the Red Sea. Island sentries at the narrow southern entrance are the British fortified Perim, on the northeast side of Bab el Mandeb (Strait of Tears) and the nameless dot representing Italian Dumeira, on the southwest side just off the coast beyond the French Somaliland-Eritrea boundary. This hot sea strip is the haunt of speedy Arab sailing craft busy with slave smuggling, fishing, and pearl-diving.

specimens in sheets of all issued in this country since 1887. In addition the Display room shows about 10,000 foreign stamps from all 88 countries belonging to the International Postal Union.

An unusual note in the Washington commemorative symphony was struck with the unveiling in the Willard Hotel of a plaque marking where Julia Ward Howe wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

More interior decorating within the past year has peopled the Benjamin Franklin Post Office Building with sculptured figures showing a dozen kinds of postmen: on snowshoes, on a stage coach, traveling by Pony Express, in a mail plane, etc. Murals in the same building depict mail service during covered-wagon days, in the Revolution, in the tropics and in the Arctic.

Recently completed portions of the National Cathedral on Mount St. Alban have been opened to the public. Visitors and congregation may now find their way into the North Transept, the Great Crossing, and a part of the Nave. New developments in the Cathedral are the 10,000-pipe organ and the pulpit built of stones from Canterbury Cathedral, England.

Housing projects, to relieve the congestion which made Washington rents the highest of 59 leading U. S. cities, have added several "Villages" to residential parts of the city, most visited of which is Greenbelt, a suburban development in Maryland.

Changes in Massachusetts Avenue's "Embassy Row" include the opening of the South African Union's Legation and the closing of legations of Austria and Iran.

Note: The National Capital as an American mecca will be described in the June, 1938, *National Geographic Magazine*, with a special map supplement showing the approaches to the District of Columbia, and the area around it rich in American shrines, scattered through Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

For additional stories and pictures of Washington, D. C., consult "Washington, Home City and Show Place," *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1937; "Wonders of the New Washington," April, 1935; and "Washington Through the Years," November, 1931.

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Photograph by B. Anthony Stewart from Goodyear Airship Reliance

WHITE IS THE SIGN OF NEW GROWTH ON THE WASHINGTON LANDSCAPE

The Washington Monument here points to Seventeenth Street, and directly at the Red Cross Building. Westward along Constitution Avenue (toward the Potomac, extreme left), appear a parking lot, now cleared into a green park; the Public Health building, the new Federal Reserve Board building, and the Academy of Sciences. Virginia Avenue, shooting riverward toward the top of the picture, leads from Constitution Avenue to the new South building of the Department of Interior; visitors here see a Museum dramatizing the work of the nine bureaus and departments of the Interior with maps, charts, models, photographs, and eleven dioramas.